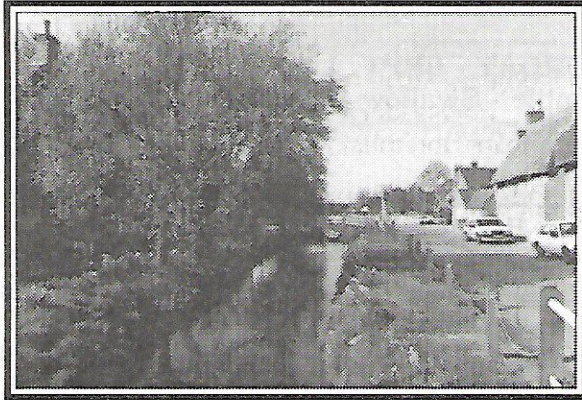


384th BOMB GROUP INC.

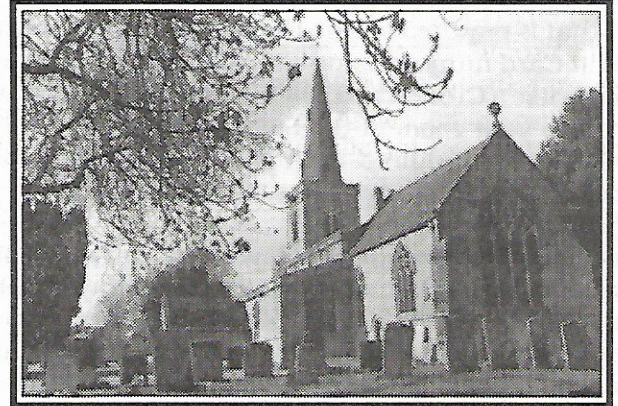
650 Snug Harbor Drive
Apt. G-402
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

February 1999

"HERE WE GO AGAIN"



Summer - Grafton Underwood, England



Chapel at Grafton-Underwood where our stained glass window is located

Enclosed you will find all the information you will need, for making our trip (probably the last hurrah) to good old Grafton-Underwood, England . . . our 9th Junket. The dates set is 9th September to the 13th September 1999, so start saving your money . . . start looking for the early bird discounts on air line fares to England. Don't miss out on this.

For some reason every thing is very expensive in Europe today and just as bad in England, so start looking now . . . get the best price you can.

We have done our best, to get the lowest prices for all our activities and at the same time get a clean and comfortable room at a new Hotel - I am sure you will be pleased.

Come make this a big one, our 9th Junket . . . BE THERE.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are a rare breed, we that were born around 1920, we lived through the "Great Depression," and then "World War II." We served in the Army Air Force during World War II, where we flew in an Armada of Aircraft, something that will never be seen again! We are indeed a rare breed, and in remembrance of those Historical days and in remembrance of our Lost Comrades, we will once again return to England, the place where it all happened so many years ago!

It will be called "Memorial Junket IX." The hotel has been selected and the program has been completed. This will be a Golden Opportunity to again visit Grafton

Underwood and view our Memorial Monument and our Memorial Stained Glass Window.

In October, 1998, Quentin Bland and myself checked on the various hotels in the area. We found that the Swallow Hotel was centrally located with the room rate, etc. being comparable to the other hotels. The Swallow Hotel is just over a year old and the rooms and other accommodations are excellent. It is near Grafton Underwood and the other activities planned.

We shall be looking forward to seeing and greeting you in Merry Old England.

Lloyd W. Whitlow, President -Board of Directors



544th



545th



546th



547th

MEMORIAL JUNKET IX

PLACE: Midlands, England
HOTEL: Swallow Hotel
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, England
DATES: September 9th - September 14th, 1999
INSTRUCTIONS

A Registration Form and a Hotel Reservation Form are included with this Newsletter.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTION TO THE LETTER WHEN FILLING OUT BOTH FORMS.

Because of the advance payments that are required to be paid and to reduce the Committees work load and to eliminate the exchange rate, etc. we shall require FULL PAYMENT to be included with the Registration Form.

All that is required for the Hotel Reservation Form is a Credit Card number, expiration date, or if you do not desire to use a Credit Card, a \$100.00 deposit. This will guarantee your room at the Swallow Hotel.

The Charge required for the 384th Bomb Group Memorial Junket IX Activities, Coaches, etc., will be \$195.00 per person.

The Room rate for the Swallow Hotel is: For the five (5) days the Room Rate will be \$165.00 per day, Double Occupancy (£100.00), or \$82.50 per day, Single Occupancy (£50.00). This room rate includes dinner, and bed and breakfast. When comparing the Swallow Hotel room rates with the other hotels checked, it is less expensive if the breakfast and dinner cost were added to the other hotel room rates.

With this newsletter is included a map showing those that plan to rent a car how to find the Swallow Hotel. For those that plan to travel by train there will be a Shuttle Bus to take you to and from the hotel. Prior to arrival at the Huntingdon Train Station, or after your arrival, telephone the Swallow Hotel for the Shuttle Service. Telephone: 0-1480-446-000.

Public Transportation information is also included with this Newsletter.



DECEASED MEMBERS

Nash, Mr. Philip, Oak Park, IL
O'Leary, Edward, Lake Worth, FL
Meyers, Mr. Francis J., Pepper Pike, Ohio
Herndon, Mr. William, St. Joseph, MO
Wagner, Mr. Raymond, South Bend, IN
Mason, Mr. Jack L. Omaha, NE

MEMORIAL JUNKET IX

PROGRAM

THURSDAY - SEPT. 9TH

Check-in - Swallow Hotel Lobby - All day
Welcome Cocktail Party - Conference Foyer Bar -
6:00 PM
Briefing - Cambridge Suite - 7:00 PM

FRIDAY - SEPT. 10th

Hospitality Room - Newnham Suite - All Day
Assemble - Swallow Hotel Lobby - 6:45 PM
Coaches Depart - Swallow Hotel Entrance - 7:00
PM
Elizabethan Banquet - Hinchingsbrooke House -
7:30 PM

SATURDAY - SEPT. 11th

Assemble - Swallow Hotel Lobby - 9:45 AM
Coaches Depart - Swallow Hotel Entrance - 10:00
AM
Tour - Boughton House - 11:00 AM
Lunch - Boughton House - 12:00 Noon
Coaches Depart - Boughton House - 1:30 PM
Memorial Service - Memorial Monument, Grafton
Underwood - 2:00 PM
Open House - Grafton Underwood Base & Village
- 3:00 PM
Coaches Depart - Grafton Underwood - 4:00 PM
Hospitality Room - Newnham Suite - 5:00 PM -
11:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12th

Hospitality Room - Newnham Suite - 9:00 AM -
11:00 AM
Assemble - Swallow Hotel Lobby - 11:00 AM
Coaches Depart - Swallow Hotel Entrance - 11:15
AM
Tour of Museum - Duxford Air Museum - 11:45
AM - 2:00 PM
Air Show - Duxford Air Museum - 2:00 PM - 5:00
PM
Coaches Depart - Duxford Air Museum - 5:15 PM
Cocktail Party - Conference Foyer Bar - No-Host -
6:30 PM
Banquet - Cambridge Suite - 7:30 PM

MONDAY - SEPT. 13th

Assemble - Swallow Hotel Lobby - 9:45 AM
Coaches Depart - Swallow Hotel Entrance - 10:00
AM
Tour - Medingley American Cemetery & Tour of
Cambridge - 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Cocktail Party - Conference Foyer Bar - No Host -
6:00 PM
Gala Farewell Dinner Dance & Entertainment -
Cambridge Suite - 7:00 PM

TUESDAY - SEPT 14th

Check-Out - Swallow Hotel Lobby - All Day



SWALLOW HOTEL HUNTINGDON



ROOM RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Number of People in Your Party _____

Smoking Room _____ Non-Smoking Room _____

Date of Arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

Credit Card: Mastercard _____ Visa _____ American Express _____

Card Number _____ Date of Expiration _____

A deposit of \$100.00 must accompany this room reservation form if you do not have a credit card.

Note: This Swallow Hotel Reservation Form must be mailed along with the Memorial Junket IX Registration Form. Both forms must be received no later than July 1, 1999.

Mail this form to: Ted Rothschild
Executive Vice-President, Clerical & Finance
384th Bomb Group, Inc.
650 Snug Harbor Drive, Apt. G-402
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435-6137



Battle Stars

By Stephen Quinn, 398th Bomg Broup
U.S. Eighth Air Force in WWII



Sitting alone in a cocktail lounge
sipping a cold mixed drink.
Thinking of buddies parched with thirst,
dead tired mid the battle stink.
Watching the debs and their playboy dates
drinking and having fun.
Wondering if even they knew of war,
or knowing, thinking it won.

A sweet young thing on the tipsy side
glanced up from her glass of Port;
And seeing the flyer alone and sad
figured to have some sport.
"Ah, look at the handsome flyer, girls,
I saw him first, he's mine;
And look at the 'ducky' uniform
and all of those ribbons fine."

"Tell me about yourself," said she,
"What do the ribbons mean?
What is the one up on the left,
and those stars - what do they mean?"
The flyer, embarrassed, and angered too,
got up and began to go;
But a sailor nearby said "I'll tell her mate,
it's a damn near time she'd know."

"The ribbon itself is the E.T.O.,
and each of the colors means,
The brown for the sand of the desert,
and the English fields, the green.
The black's the color Germany,
and France is the white and red."

"The three stripes down the center, Miss,
are all for the Yankee dead.
The stars, you asked what they are for,
I'll tell you what they mean.
They're four of the major engagements
and battles he has seen.
The Air Offensive Europe, the first,
but it means much more you see.
It's flak and fighters and comrades lost
early in forty-three."

"It's fighting your way to the target, Miss,
against all the Jerries that came.
It's watching your buddies shot from the sky,
going down in twisting flame.
The second's the Normandy Campaign, Miss,
it's the blood and slush D-Day.
It's the men we left on Omaha Beach
and the dead who paved the way."

"It's the broken and fallen seventeens
that burned in the fields of France.
They dropped their loads on the Jerry lines
and gave our troops a chance.
It's the LSTs and LSDs
we left on the Channel floor.
It's the mines that burst and the bodies of
the first young kids ashore."

"The third one's for Northern France, my dear,
right up to the Siegfried Line.
It's paratroops on cruel barbed wire
and the filthy S.S. swine.
It's glider troops far behind the lines,
slaughtered without a chance.
It's the blood and guts of the infantry
spilled on the fields of France."

"It's burned out tanks and the slime and mud
and shrapnel and bursting shell.
It's mortar fire and the eighty-eight,
in short, my dear, it's Hell.
the fourth bronze star's for Germany, Miss,
and the awful toll we paid
To cross the Rhine and the Siegfried Line,
and the lifeless men who stayed."

"It's the setback in the Belgium Bulge
and the kid next door who died.
It's the prison camps and the stinking food
and the filthy tricks they tried.
It's the land mine and the missing foot
and the man with the sightless eyes.
It's the brave young kind with his arm half gone
who smiles and smokes and dies."

"What are the stars you ask, my dear,
there on the field of green?
They're blood and guts and a hitch in Hell -
that's exactly what they mean."



REGISTRATION FORM

MEMORIAL JUNKET IX



Enclosed is my Check for \$ _____, made payable to the 384th Bomb Group, Inc.
for the following:

Member _____ \$195.00 Payment in Full

Wife/Guest _____ \$195.00 Payment in Full

Please check your selection for the Main Course for the Sunday Dinner.

Roast Leg of British Lamb _____ or Vegetarian _____ (Pasta Penne Dish)

Please check your selection for the Main Course for the Monday Gala

Farewell Dinner

Roast Sirloin of Beef _____ or Vegetarian _____ (Macaroni & Cheese)

Name _____

Wife/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Number of People in Your Party _____

Make Your Check Payable to Order of: 384th Bomb Group, Inc.

Mail this form and registration Form

and your Check to:

Ted Rothschild

Executive Vice-President, Clerical & Finance

384th Bomb Group, Inc.

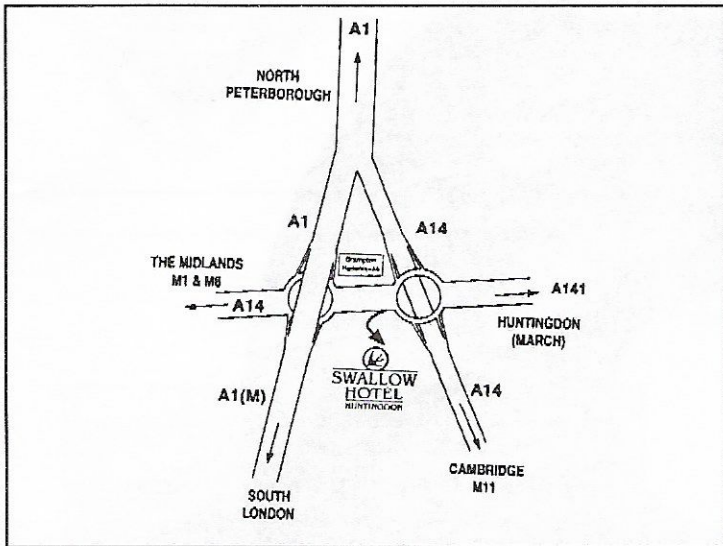
650 Snug Harbor Drive, Apt. G-402

Boynton Beach, Florida 33435-6140

**THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN JULY 1, 1999**

NOTE: YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

WHERE WE ARE AND HOW TO FIND US



A1 SOUTH

Follow A14 to Cambridge, Huntingdon & M11. After approximately 2 miles take the slip road to the left signposted Huntingdon. March & A141. At the roundabout the hotel can be seen on the right - take the A14 West and keep to the right hand lane. Take the first slip road immediately after the roundabout which takes you in to Hinchingsbrooke Business Park.

A1 NORTH

Take A14 East to Cambridge, Huntingdon & M11. Pass Brampton Racecourse on the left - at the approach to the next roundabout the hotel can be seen on the right. Therefore, go around the roundabout and head back on the west carriageway. Take the first slip road immediately after the roundabout into Hinchingsbrooke Business Park.

MIDLANDS M1 & M6

Junction 19 (M1) M6. Follow A14 Eastbound for approximately 44 miles towards Huntingdon. Pass Brampton Racecourse on left on the approach to the next roundabout, the hotel can be seen on the right. Therefore, go around the roundabout and head back on the west carriageway. Take the first slip road immediately after the roundabout into Hinchingsbrooke Business Park.

CAMBRIDGE M11

Follow A14 Northbound, take turn off for Brampton/Racecourse and M1/M6. At the roundabout the hotel will be on the left. At the first exit keep in the left hand lane and take the sliproad immediately into Hinchingsbrooke Business Park.

HUNTINGDON A141

Follow signs from the Huntingdon Ring Road leading to the A1/North. At the roundabout with A14 follow A14 - M1/M6. The hotel is straight ahead. Take the first slip road immediately into Hinchingsbrooke Business Park.

FOR THOSE ARRIVING BY RENT A CAR

FOR THOSE ARRIVING BY TRAIN - there is a Shuttle available to and from the Swallow Hotel. Upon arrival or prior to arrival, telephone for the Shuttle: (0) 1480-446-000.

Quentin called today with information about the train travel from London to Huntingdon.

From either Gatwick or Heathrow they can either take a cab to the train station or the underground.

The train station is Kings Cross. The trains are electric and run at least once an hour, Quentin said they could run more frequently than that as they continue on to Scotland. He thought possibly ever half hour during the day, but at least once an hour. The train trip is approximately one hour.

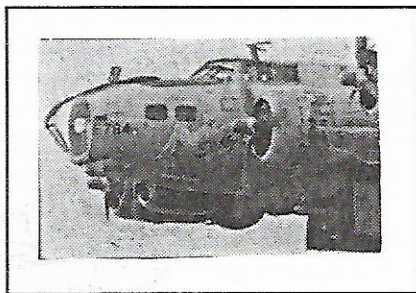
As I stated previously, the hotel has a shuttle bus that will pick the people up, they can call either from Kings Cross or after they arrive at Huntingdon. The telephone number to call is: 0-1480-446-000.

DEBT WE OWE TO AMERICA'S FINEST

I was among the guests on Friday when the Queen opened the new American Air Museum at Duxford, near Cambridge.

The building, designed by Sir Norman Foster, is a masterpiece, displaying under its vast concrete arched roof more than 20 US warplanes with the immense 185 ft-wingspan B-52 at centre stage.

Outside, under a heavy sky, a B-17 Flying Fortress, P-51 Thunderbolt and P-54 Mustang fighters resplendent in their squadron colours and D-Day markings were joined in a flying display by modern F-15 fighters while



a Hurricane and Spitfire paid their respects to the Americans.

I met Major General Ramsey Potts, a distinguished veteran of 19 combat missions as a B-24 Liberator pilot, who represented the US Air Force veterans. There were many of them there - greyer, slower, moving a little stiffly, but still with the clear live hawk eyes of men who have fought to the death in air battles of a scale never again to be seen. On Friday, I swear some of these eyes left just a suspicion of a tear on their cheeks as memories of flak and fighters, the smell of cordite and hot engine oil came back.

As a schoolboy I watched the great formations of B-17s going out and saw fewer of them return, with the battered and bloodied stragglers struggling to get home. Duxford's new building is not just a museum. It is a monument to the 7,000 US planes lost and the 30,000 men who died in just three years, more than half a century ago. They did die for us. We who lived then should never forget that, nor fail to tell those born since - for whom the Second World War is now only history.

"The Ball

The ball turret was a crowded place,
About forty inches wide.
It hung below the bomber,
A gunner flew inside.

And we won't forget that gunner,
But I guess we'll never know.
How alone he really was,
The guy who flew below.

Not only was it crowded,
But it was lonely too.
The man who had to fly there,
Was the man who really knew.

Now there are only memories,
For those who did come back.
We won't forget those fighters,
We won't forget that flak.

He had a pair of "fifties,"
One on either side.
The way he manned those "fifties,"
Filled us all with pride.

He could be attacked by fighters,
Or he could be hit by flak.
That's why there were so many,
Who never made it back.

He'd line up those guns,
By swinging left and right.
He'd keep working with that Sperry,
Till his target was in sight

That gunner fought a lonely fight,
As he hung there down below.
Some things happened up above,
That he didn't even know.

Then you'd hear those fifties chatter,
You'd feel the bomber shake.
We were depending on that gunner,
Our lives were all at stake.

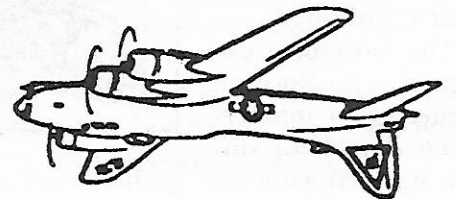
He flew all his missions,
Beneath the bomber, on his back.
As he fought off those fighters,
He was alone in all that flak.

Turret"

"Keep the Show on the Road"...

MR HENRY SIENKIEWICZ
105 OLIN DR
SYRACUSE, NY 13219-1308

RETURNSERVICE REQUESTED



384th BOMB GROUP INC.
EIGHTH AIR FORCE
650 Snug Harbor Drive
Apt. G-402
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

